

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14 and 16-18 are pending in the subject application. Claims 6, 13 and 15 have been canceled by Preliminary Amendment when the subject application was filed. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 have been allowed. Claims 14 and 16-18 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 16-18 have been amended. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 19 has been added. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-5, 7-12, and 16-19 are pending in the instant application.

Formal Matters

An abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.72(b) is attached hereto on a separate sheet.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended herein solely for clarity. Applicants do not believe these amendments raise any new issues of patentability, since the scope of claim 1 remains essentially the same. Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found in the claims as filed, as well as throughout the Specification.

Claim 14, which stands rejected, has been canceled and new claim 19 has been introduced, which incorporates all of the limitations of allowed claim 1, and the additional step recited in canceled claim 14. Accordingly, to the extent that claim 1 is allowed, new claim 19 should also be allowed. Claims 16-18, which also stand rejected as depending on rejected claim 14, have been amended to depend on new claim 19. Thus, these claims should be in allowable form now as well.

Rejection Under §§ 102(b) and 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No.s 5,646,252 and 5,814,601

Claims 14 and 16-18 stand rejected under U.S. Patent No.s 5,646,252 and 5,814,601. In view of the cancellation of claim 14 and the introduction of new claim 19 (on which claims 16 to 18 now depend), which now contains all of the limitations of allowed claim 1, these rejections are rendered moot.

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III. SUMMARY

Applicants believe that the amendments and remarks presented herein place this case in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the undersigned attorney would expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to call her at: 1-858-314-1140.

If the Patent Office determines that any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s) to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

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